

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 15 are amended hereby; and claim 4 is cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to claims 1 and 15, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 15, keeping in mind the comments offered by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims 1 and 15 are now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicant has cancelled claim 4 and amended claim 5, such that claim 5 is definite and distinctly claims the subject matter of the invention. Applicant submits that claim 5 is now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-5, 9-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,536,612 (Domigan). Domigan discloses a box for raised floors (Figs. 1 and 2) including a main housing 2 having sidewalls 4 and 5 (column 1, lines 31-33). Sidewalls 4 and 5 of the power sections each are provided with apertures to mount wire connectors 27 and 28. Conductors 30 and 31 connect the respective wire connectors 27 and 28 and receptacles 21 and 22 (column 2, lines 12-16). There is a power-thru feature in that connector 27 is a power-in connector and connector 28 is a power-out connector thereby allowing a daisy chain connection of multiple boxes (column 3, lines 6-15 and the Figs.).

In contrast, claim 1 as amended, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Domigan or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by

wire to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. What Domigan does not show is a connector that directly connects to either connector 27 or 28 to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Therefore, Domigan and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited reference, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging a connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 15 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10, as amended, recites in part:

a pass-through connector... releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Domigan or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wire to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. What Domigan does not show is a connector that directly connects to either connector 27 or 28 to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured.

Therefore, Domigan and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to

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disclose, teach, or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box, as recited in claim 10.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited reference, in that the pass-through connector allows the disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disconnecting a connector connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10 and claims 11, 12 and 14 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested

Claims 6-8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Domigan in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman). However, claims 6-8 depend from claim 1 and claim 13 depends from claim 10, and claims 1 and 10 have been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-8 and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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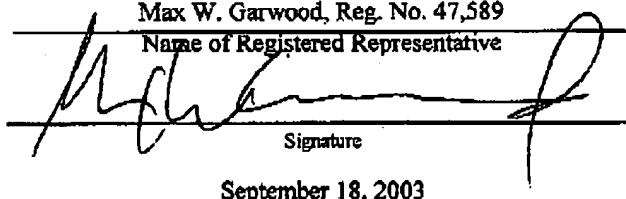
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